



File Code: 2210

Date: March 23, 2011

Etcheverry Sheep Co.
c/o: Henry Etcheverry
P.O. Box 162
Rupert, ID 83350

Dear Henry;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bechler Creek, Deer Creek, Smith Creek, and South Fork of Tincup Creek Sheep Allotments. These operating instructions are a guide for management on these allotments during the 2011 grazing season. We have also included your Actual Use Form which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Soda Springs Ranger District by **November 30, 2011**.

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

Grazing Schedule

The 2011 order of rotation is outlined in this section. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted dependant on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. **Please contact us 5 days prior to when your sheep will enter the Forest.**

Table 1. Permitted numbers and season of use

Allotment	Season of Use	Permitted Numbers	Authorized Numbers	Unit Rotation
Bechler Creek	7/1-8/30	1000	1000	Counter-Clockwise
Deer Creek	7/1-9/15	900	900	Clockwise
Smith Creek	7/1-8/30	900	900	Clockwise
So. Fork Tincup	7/1-9/15	900	900	Clockwise

The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. If riparian or upland monitoring show that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian areas, livestock will need to be moved. Any extension to the grazing season must be approved by the Forest Service officer in charge of your allotment. **It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.**



Special Instructions

This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

There was a reseeding project accomplished on the Boundary between the South Fork allotment and the Bechler Creek allotment in 2009 and sheep are not to graze or bed in these areas for 2 growing seasons. They may be grazed lightly near the end of the 2011 grazing season.

After the lambs are shipped from the Dancehall Flat Corral and you wish to extend the season of use on any of these allotments a request must be submitted in writing before September 10th and the bill must be paid before the extension will be granted. My staff will be monitoring the key areas identified in your allotment management plan [i.e. using the rangeland health indicators (FSH 2209.13)] to finalize data needed for grazing modifications. In addition to the monitoring data, the following instructions need to be adhered to:

- Sheep should not be "nooned" on Tincup Creek by the corrals while shipping. .
- The fence on the cattle allotment directly east of the Dancehall Flat Corrals should not be left down or tied down during or after shipping.
- You are not allowed to use the cattle allotment as an additional area for your sheep to graze. Sheep should not over night on the cattle allotment during the shipping process.
- Approximately ½ mile of fence around the corral needs to be maintained before June 6th as agreed upon in the letter signed by you in 2009.

Riparian Guidelines for Grazing

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest (RFP)* and *The Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one and two below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Stubble heights, on riparian areas, will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)	Non Functioning (States C & D) (%/Stubble Height)
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

Table 2. Riparian Utilization Standards for streams on your allotments

Stream	Type of Riparian (Lotic) Area	AIZ Stubble Height at end of grazing period	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
S. Fk. Tincup Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
Chicken Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
Sheiss Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
(Upper)Deer Cr.	Functioning	4	45
Miller Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
S. Fk. Miller Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
Brush Cr.	Functioning	4	45
Crooked Cr.	Functioning	4	45
N. Fk. Stump Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
Stump Cr.	Functioning	4	45
Bechler Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	5	35
Smith Cr.	Functioning	4	45

* Utilization standards are guidelines given in the Caribou National Forest Revised Forest Plan.

Upland Utilization Guidelines

Utilization of upland vegetation is based on stubble height or a percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring could include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. Use should be measured on key grass species such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), mountain brome (*Bromus marginatus*) or key shrub species such as sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), or serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.).

Table 3 Upland Forage Utilization Standards

Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non winter range
Grass and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs (% annual leader growth)	10	20	35

Most of the Bechler Creek allotment is considered "winter range".

Wolf Recovery Management

As read on the Idaho Fish and Game web site 2/17/11
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>

Current Legal Status

August 5, 2010, wolf management south of Interstate 90 reverted to a section of the Endangered Species Act known as the 10(j) rule.

Simply put, the 10(j) rule allows states and tribes with approved wolf management plans some options to manage wolves to ensure the health of wild elk and deer herds. It also provides more flexibility to protect livestock and private property. The rule allows individuals on private or public land to kill a wolf that is in the act of attacking their stock animals (horses, mules, donkey, llamas, goats used to transport people and possessions) or dogs provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. On land north of Interstate 90 in Idaho, or land administered by the National Park Service, wolves may be killed only to protect human life.

Compliance

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with part 1, Item 3, and Part 2, Item 8 (a). Situations may develop during which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

District Trailing Guidelines

- When trailing, sheep must use Forest Service system roads where feasible.
- Trailing while on National Forest System land will be counted as part of a permittee's permitted days.
- Sheep should cover a minimum of 6 miles a day when trailing to or from the permitted allotment.
- Do not overnight sheep in the same location where an earlier band of sheep bedded.

For the Henry Cut-off Driveway:

- a. You must notify the District office that you are trailing across the Henry Cut-off driveway at least 24 hours in advance.

- b. Before sheep can be bedded overnight on the Henry Cut-off and/or Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment, Forest Service approval is needed. Over-nighting sheep on the Forest will count against your permitted days.
- c. Avoid bedding the sheep in the vicinity of the troughs, the switch-back cut-off, the summit, or north of the summit.
- d. While trailing across the Bridge Creek Cattle Allotment, stay south of Tincup Highway near the substation.

Permittee Responsibilities

1. "Once-over" grazing and open herding is to be practiced on all allotments.
2. Sheep are to bed in new locations each night. Sheep should be encouraged to bed in places other than ridges.
3. Sheep should not be allowed to bed near streams, ponds, springs, or on Forest System roads and trails. Noon bedding in riparian areas is not allowed. Sheep should be encouraged to water early in the day and then moved off water.
4. Ensure the herder leaves a sanitary and clean campsite.
5. Salt should be placed in areas away from water, riparian areas, forest plantations, ridges, shade-up areas, Forest System roads and trails, and bed grounds. Salt in a different location each year and remove bags after use.
6. Report all fires to the District Office as soon as possible (208) 547-4356.
7. Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "Weed free". If you are found to be using uncertified hay or straw, permit action may be taken.
8. All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on the on your allotments will result if improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to livestock entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

Water Development Maintenance Standards

Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.

- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Level troughs and reset when needed.
- **Wildlife escape ramps should be installed on all troughs.**

Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

Forms to be Completed

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30, 2011.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office	Cell
Jack Isaacs District Ranger	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-1108	208)313-7328
Garth Nelson Range Specialist	208) 547-1113	208) 313- 7910

Sincerely,

/S/ JACK ISAACS

Jack L. Isaacs
District Ranger

**Annual Operating Instructions
Soda Springs Ranger District
Bechler Cr, Deer Cr, Smith Cr, South Fork of Tincup Cr.
S&G Allotments
2011**



Accepted By:

_____/s/_____
Henry Etcheverry

____3/23/2011____
Date

Approved By:

_____/s/_____
Jack L Isaacs
District Ranger

____4/28/2011____
Date

Deer Cr, Smith Cr, Beclher Cr, and South Fork Tincup Cr

